

Docket No.: CL-10271
Application No.: 10/813,188
Amendment Date: July 3, 2006
Reply of Office Action of: March 1, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-2 and 6-7 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A flat fluorescent lamp, comprising:

a front substrate;

a back substrate having a continuous serpentine type discharge channel defined by a plurality of partitions, which are extended from both side ends of the back substrate and alternately disposed;

a pair of electrodes provided on an outer surface of any one of the front substrate and the back substrate; and

an inverter to apply power to the electrodes,

wherein each of the electrodes includes a discharge electrode and a plurality of subsidiary electrodes,

the discharge electrodes are mounted in strip shapes along both side ends of the outer surface of the any one of the front substrate and the back substrate, and

the plurality of subsidiary electrodes are mounted on the outer surface of the any one of the front substrate and the back substrate[[to correspond to positions of the partitions]], the plurality of subsidiary electrodes being aligned with the partitions in directly overlying relation to the partitions, and[[are]] the subsidiary electrodes being disposed[[to be]] perpendicular to the discharge electrodes, the plurality of subsidiary electrodes being alternately connected to inner edges of both the discharge electrodes so that neighboring subsidiary electrodes have different polarities;

wherein crosstalk between parallel portions of the discharge channel is inhibited.

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Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A flat fluorescent lamp, comprising:

a front substrate;

a back substrate having a continuous serpentine type discharge channel defined by a plurality of partitions, which are extended from both side ends of the back substrate and alternately disposed;

a pair of electrodes provided on an outer surface of any one of the front substrate and the back substrate; and

an inverter to apply power to the electrodes,

wherein each of the electrodes includes a discharge electrode and a subsidiary electrode,

the discharge electrodes are mounted in strip shapes along both side ends of the outer surface of the any one of the front substrate and the back substrate,

the subsidiary electrodes are mounted on the outer surface of the any one of the front substrate and the back substrate, and each of the subsidiary electrodes has a first subsidiary electrode[[disposed to be adjacent to]] that is not in physical contact with any one of the discharge electrodes[[while being in parallel therewith]], the first subsidiary electrode extending parallel to at least one of the discharge electrodes; and

a plurality of second subsidiary electrodes defining a contour, the contour being aligned with [[which are mounted to correspond to positions of]]the partitions, and the second subsidiary electrodes being [[are positioned to be]]perpendicular to the first subsidiary electrode, the second subsidiary electrodes of both the subsidiary electrodes being alternately connected to inner edges of both the first subsidiary electrodes so that neighboring electrodes have different polarities, and

the discharge electrode and the first subsidiary electrode are separately connected to the inverter.

Claim 3. (Original) The flat fluorescent lamp as defined in claim 2, wherein any one of the discharge electrodes and the first subsidiary electrode adjacent to the any one of the discharge electrodes have the same polarities.

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Claim 4. (Original) The flat fluorescent lamp as defined in claim 1, wherein each of the subsidiary electrodes, which are positioned to be perpendicular to the discharge electrodes, has a hollow part therein.

Claim 5. (Original) The flat fluorescent lamp as defined in claim 2, wherein each of the subsidiary electrodes, which are positioned to be perpendicular to the discharge electrodes, has a hollow part therein.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A backlight unit, comprising:

[[a diffusion member;]]

a flat fluorescent lamp, which includes a front substrate, a back substrate having a continuous serpentine type discharge channel defined by a plurality of partitions, which are extended from both side ends of the back substrate and alternately disposed, a pair of electrodes provided on an outer surface of any one of the front substrate and the back substrate, and an inverter to apply power to the electrodes; and

a frame having[[the diffusion member and]] the flat fluorescent lamp therein, wherein each of the electrodes includes a discharge electrode and a plurality of subsidiary electrodes,

the discharge electrodes are mounted in strip shapes along both side ends of the outer surface of the any one of the front substrate and the back substrate,

the plurality of subsidiary electrodes are mounted on the outer surface of the any one of the front substrate and the back substrate [[to correspond to]] in positions[[of]] that directly overlie the partitions, and are disposed to be perpendicular to the discharge electrodes, the plurality of subsidiary electrodes being alternately connected to inner edges of both the discharge electrodes so that neighboring subsidiary electrodes have different polarities; wherein crosstalk between parallel portions of the discharge channel is inhibited.

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Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A backlight unit, comprising:

[[a diffusion member;]]

a flat fluorescent lamp, which includes a front substrate, a back substrate having a continuous serpentine type discharge channel defined by a plurality of partitions, which are extended from both side ends of the back substrate and alternately disposed, a pair of electrodes provided on an outer surface of any one of the front substrate and the back substrate, and an inverter to apply power to the electrodes; and

a frame having[[the diffusion member and]] the flat fluorescent lamp therein, wherein each of the electrodes includes a discharge electrode and a subsidiary electrode, the discharge electrodes are mounted in strip shapes along both side ends of the outer surface of the any one of the front substrate and the back substrate,

the subsidiary electrodes are mounted on the outer surface of the any one of the front substrate and the back substrate, and each of the subsidiary electrodes has a first subsidiary electrode disposed[[to be adjacent to any]] at a predetermined spacing from an adjacent one of the discharge electrodes while being in parallel therewith[[,]]; and

a plurality of second subsidiary electrodes which are mounted[[to correspond to]] in positions[[of]] that are aligned with the partitions,[[and are positioned to be]] the second subsidiary electrodes being in positions perpendicular to the first subsidiary electrode, and the second subsidiary electrodes of both the subsidiary electrodes being alternately connected to inner edges of both the first subsidiary electrodes so that neighboring electrodes have different polarities, and

the discharge electrode and the first subsidiary electrode are separately connected to the inverter.

Claim 8. (Original) The backlight unit as defined in claim 7, wherein any one of the discharge electrodes and the first subsidiary electrode adjacent to the any one of the discharge electrodes have the same polarities.

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Claim 9. (Original) The backlight unit as defined in claim 6, wherein each of the subsidiary electrodes, which are positioned to be perpendicular to the discharge electrodes, has a hollow part therein.

Claim 10. (Original) The backlight unit as defined in claim 7, wherein each of the subsidiary electrodes, which are positioned to be perpendicular to the discharge electrodes, has a hollow part therein.